



Festival Pays Tribute to its WWII Veterans

The presenters of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival are always proud to honor the men and women who served in our nation's armed forces. More than half of the 48 million Americans who served since the Revolutionary War are with us today. They range from a handful of World War I veterans, all more than 100 years old, to recent high school graduates currently serving in Iraq.

This year's Creative Arts Festival takes special pride in honoring our World War II veterans. Sixty years ago, these nine men and women joined others in a proud line of service, as strong as our belief in freedom and as enduring as our history as a free people.

Our nation endures because they endured. We remain free because they gave up their freedom when duty called. This week, they can sit back and remember, play their music, paint their visions, sing their tributes and share with others their stories and their dreams.



Vivian Egan, a yeoman first class, supported the war effort from the Bureau of Navy Personnel. She understood the sacrifice of war, even though she was never in combat. One of her jobs was to write the letters to the next of kin of those killed, and each day she walked through Arlington

National Cemetery on her way to work. Egan has performed in several past Festivals as a tap dancer, and will sing with the chorus this year.

Samuel (Ed) Fernley also served in the Navy during WWII, assigned to an LST (landing ship tank). But that was just the start of his military career, going on to serve in the Air Force and become a charter member of the famed *Singing Sergeants*. Fernley is a member of Salt Lake City's *Salty*



Dogs, performing "Man of La Mancha" in Sunday's show.

Hager Garriott worked his way through Europe during the war and witnessed the Holocaust firsthand. As a sergeant with 781st Tank Battalion, Second Infantry Division, Seventh Army, he saw combat in France, Germany, Austria and Italy. His unit fought in three major campaigns and liberated three slave labor camps. Another repeat participant in the Festival, Garriott will play a "Medley of Hymns" in the 2005 stage performance.



Robert Keogh enlisted in the Navy during WWII to be ensured of a warm cot, rather than a cold foxhole. Proud to serve his country as a seaman first class, he was stationed at Subic Bay in the Philippines and then spent four months on a mine sweeper after the war. A visual artist, Keogh won first place in the Festival's wood carving category with his chip carved set, a

Norwegian Tina Box and matching plate.

Melford Knudson was drafted into the Army and served in General Patton's Field Artillery, Third Army. He landed on Utah Beach on D-Day, crossed France into Luxemburg, then went on through Germany and Austria. He spent nine months on the front lines with only three showers and one bath – each of which he can remember in detail 60 years later! Knudson, who has



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attended the Festival before, won first place this year in the glasswork category. His "San Francisco Stick House" is made of stained glass.



Walter Pasciak, who landed in Normandy on D-Day, received the Silver Star, Bronze Star and French Legion of Honor for heroism while serving in France and Luxembourg during WWII. As a private first class, Pasciak was able to move his unit around enemy held territory in France and brought back 80 German prisoners. He was awarded the Bronze Star

for pulling GIs out a tank during an enemy attack. A member of the Baltimore Blind Comedy Trio, Pasciak will join partners George Hicks and Robert Jackson in a comedy act entitled "Afternoon at a Ballgame" in Sunday's show.

Raymond Henry Ross served in Alaska during WWII as a company clerk and later as a tech sergeant at Camp Duck Creek in Juneau. There, he was in charge of typing entire inventory and shipping all ordinance, signal corps and office supplies to the different islands of the Aleutian chain. Later, Ross volunteered for officer training school and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the infantry. Another member of the *Salty Dogs*, Ross will perform with the group's eight other members in the stage performance this weekend.



Charles Walkingstick was only a corporal in the Marine Corps when he saw combat action with the 15th Defense Battalion in Kawajalein Atol, Marshall Islands. He was transferred to the 2nd Marine Division on Saipan Island and participated in the invasion of Okinawa Island. After the atomic bomb in Nagasaki City, his unit occupied the area and helped them begin the process of rebuilding. Another visual artist, Walkingstick won first place in the applied arts mixed media category this year, with "Shaman," his three-panel mixed media piece.



Special recognition

James O. Nelson, at the young age of 17, was stationed on the Battleship USS Arkansas and was later sent to Okinawa as the U.S. was preparing to invade Japan. Fortunately, the war ended before he had to invade. Unfortunately, Mother Nature set up a new challenge for him in the way of a typhoon while he was at sea. The scene is depicted in his medal winning oil painting, "Let He that Knows Not How to Pray Go to Sea." Nelson was selected as a runner-up winner for the *Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development* magazine covers this year.

In addition to these World War II veterans, we have 32 veterans at the Festival who saw combat in Vietnam; two from the Korean War; one who served in Grenada; and two who served during the Gulf War. Approximately 70 of our participants served the nation in the eras of these conflicts, or protected our nation during times of peace.



Our World War II veterans today:

*Top row, left to right,
Hager Garriott
Raymond Henry Ross
Robert Keogh
Sam (Ed) Fernley*

*Bottom row, left to right,
Melford Knudson
Vivian Egan
Charles Walkingstick
Walter Pasciak*

*Photo montage created
by Eric Eisen*

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Attending Festival!

Tomorrow and Sunday, we will have a very special guest attending the Festival from Washington, D.C., Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James (Jim) Nicholson, as well as his wife, Suzanne.

Nicholson is a 1961 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He served eight years on active duty as a paratrooper and Ranger-qualified Army officer, then 22 years in the Army Reserve, retiring with the rank of colonel. While serving in Vietnam, he earned the Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge, the Meritorious Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry and two Air Medals.

Secretary and Mrs. Nicholson plan to look in on some of the rehearsals on Saturday afternoon, as well as the Gala Dinner that evening. Expect to see them both at the art exhibit and performance, as well as the closing ceremonies on Sunday, too.

This marks the Secretary's attendance at three of the four VA national rehabilitation special events since he was sworn into office last February.



VA Secretary Jim Nicholson

It's Show Time! Sunday's Stage Show Sure to Be a Hit!

The City of Denver has proudly welcomed the 2005 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival participants this week. Earlier this year, nearly 2800 veterans from 101 VA medical facilities participated in this year's local and regional competitions. Of the veterans who are here, 40 are visual artists who include painters, sculptors, woodworkers, kit builders, knitters, leather workers, glass makers and so many other talented artists. Festival participants represent all branches of service, range in age from 36 to 88, and come from 27 different states.

The artists will display their award-winning work on Sunday right before the stage performance, from 12:30 – 1:45 p.m. on the Joy Burns Plaza outside the Gates Concert Hall, part of the Newman Center for the Performing Arts on the University of Denver campus. There are also 68 performers, who are dancers, actors, singers, musicians, chorus members, comedians and writers. Their performance will take place at Gates Concert Hall from 2 – 4:30 p.m.



This year's stage show is sure to be a success, with our performing artists taking part in three production numbers as well as numerous individual acts and group performances. The show includes a diverse variety of music, dance and dramatic performances, as well as the reading of two creative writing pieces for the first time in Festival history.

Star of Hollywood's golden era Jane Powell is joining us once again as mistress of ceremonies. VA Secretary R. James Nicholson, his wife Suzanne, American Legion Auxiliary President Carol Van Kirk and Help Hospitalized

Veterans Chairman and Founder Roger Chapin, will also be in the audience to enjoy the show after viewing the visual artists' work.

Here are just a few highlights to get you ready for a wonderful show. It opens with talented wheelchair dancer Dwayne Scheuneman and his dance partner, Amie Fishinger, performing a "physically integrated dance," (that is one designed for dancers with and without disabilities).



Because this year is VA's 75th anniversary, a portion of the show will highlight that historic occasion as well as the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. Festival participants who are veterans of that war will be recognized during the performance. A special thank you is extended in the show this year to the active duty service members helping with rescue and recovery efforts at the recent hurricane sites in the Gulf coast region.

Other show highlights include (you may recognize these descriptions) one Grammy-winning piano player; a medley of hymns performed by a one-handed musician and his partner; a local accordion player who specializes in ethnic music performing a song he wrote himself; a duo that plays a mix of bluegrass, country, blues and jazz; a comedy tap dance; and a multimedia video presentation. There will also be group performances by the Salty Dogs of Salt Lake City, the Geritol Hipsters from Prescott, Ariz., and the Baltimore Blind Comedy Trio along with a variety of other acts. Enjoy the creative self-expression on Sunday – and get ready to be inspired!



How to Make a Collage

To start a paper or photographic

collage, you will need the following materials: clear glue, frames, scissors, ruler, pencil, tissue, photographs, material and any paper/flat memorabilia.

Begin your collage with a great frame, like a large poster board.

Decide the theme or purpose of your collage. Collect the poems, essays, art, clip art, dried flowers, theme items, tickets, cards, notes, and yarn or other fabrics you want to incorporate for texture and effect. Look for items that are related in some sense. Examples might be a literature collage with your favorite poems or images of the past.

Lay out your collection of items on a large table and weed out the pieces that don't match your theme.

Choose what is special and use the rest as "filler."

Filler is the pieces of scrap paper or fabric useful for filling in the empty spaces on your frame. This could mean using the trimmings from a photograph or scraps from a magazine.

Use your own expertise and judgment to create shapes and fancy edges. Cut pieces in the shapes of flowers or other shapes, or make creative edges using scissors or pinking sheers. Unusual edges are great for collages, since the edges of your materials, especially photos, usually need to be "blended" into one another so they fit side by side.

Remember, you are the artist and creator and this will be your own personal masterpiece!



In Perfect Harmony – Father and Son Joined in Music and in Life

In the Ross family, it's not just the familial genes that father and son have in common. It's also their love of music.

Father, Raymond H. Ross of West Valley, Utah, has been singing as a hobby all of his life. So it's no wonder that son, Ray M. Ross of Midvale, Utah, became involved in music from the time he was a child. The music lives on among this unique duo, performing as part of the *Salty Dogs*' award winning musical talent at this year's National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

The newest member of the *Salty Dogs*, Raymond began singing with the group just eight months ago when it became apparent that the ensemble needed another member. "I thought, now who can we get as a member – we need a second tenor," Ray said. At this point, it occurred to him to ask his Dad. "I couldn't have been happier to have the chance to sing with my son again," Raymond said.

The Ross family was, in fact, a musical family encompassing almost every member singing as part of the group at one point in time. Their performances started with a mother and father duo. Then Ray joined in to make it a trio when he was only five years old. He started playing the accordion at the age of eight, and then began playing the piano.

However, "by the time I got to be about 12 or 13, I decided it wasn't cool to perform with the family and I left the group," Ray said. By then, his sister had joined the group, still giving the family a trio.

Raymond has had a love for harmony for many years, and this 82-year-old WWII veteran took this harmony (which he calls his pet hobby) into the

Army. As for performing with his son once again, Raymond says he "just loves that!"



Ray M. Ross and his father, Raymond H. Ross, share their music and smiles.

As for Ray, a 57-year-old Army veteran of the Vietnam War, the feeling is mutual, saying it felt wonderful to perform with his dad again. "It's just like old times," he said. Although many years have passed, the joy and love shared by father and son, through their musical performances with the *Salty Dogs*, has opened new doors for both. Just recently, father and son hit the links to play golf together for the first time. (Make that a hole in one for family ties!)

Be sure to watch the Rosses, along with the six other vocally gifted members of the *Salty Dogs*, when the group performs on Sunday afternoon. Their talents just can't be muzzled.





Art and Music At It's Best!



Photos from the Festival





Loosen Up That Tongue!

Certainly not something your childhood teachers probably told you, right? For our singers and

narrators, however, a vocal warm-up prepares the voice for performing. You need to warm up the vocal chords just as you would warm up any other muscle in your body.

Start with some deep breathing. Then, turn the breath into a sigh, expelling the air with a light sound. Keep the sound soft and relaxed. Then turn the sigh into a hum by closing the lips.

Take a deep breath and expel the air with a “sh” sound on a count from one to five. Repeat the exercise with a soft “zzz” sound.

Open your mouth as wide as possible and then scrunch it up as small as possible. Keeping you lips loosely together, blow the air through them so they flap together, like a horses lips. Stick out your tongue and roll it around. Try to reach your nose, your chin your left ear and your right ear (impossible, but try really, really hard anyway!) This may not be an exercise to try in public!

Try a few tongue twisters, really focusing on your pronunciation and enunciation. Here are some really good examples.

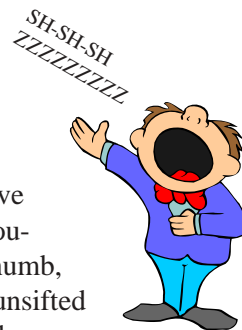
1. Theophilus Thistle, the successful thistle sifter, in sifting a sieve full of unsifted thistles, thrust three thousand thistles through the thick of his thumb. Now if Theophilus Thistle, the successful thistle sifter, in sifting a sieve full of unsifted thistles, thrust three thousand thistles through the thick of his thumb, see that thou, in sifting a sieve full of unsifted thistles, thrust not three thousand thistles through the thick of thy thumb. Success to the successful thistle sifter.

2. The sixth sick sheik’s sixth sheep’s sick.

3. Red Leather, Yellow Leather (Repeat this one really quickly over and over. It’s also a great warm up for singing.)

4. My bike’s back brakes’ blocks broke.

Here is one more special tongue twister just for this week: Creative creations creating credible casting cannot cancel creativity for cantankerous cast mates! Now your mouth should be all limbered up!

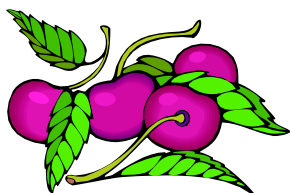


Time to Shop!

Looking for a chance to shop for your family and friends back home?

Today’s trip to the Cherry Creek Shopping Center and Gallery District is just what you need to make sure no one is forgotten! Stores such as Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Lord & Taylor, Tiffany & Co, and Ralph Lauren anchor the 160 shops that are located at this upscale mall. Just north of the mall is the Cherry Creek Gallery District, with lots of places for our many art lovers to explore. The district is home of the Annual Cherry Creek Arts Festival, which is the city’s most prestigious, and features more than 200 artists from across the country.

Buses load today at 1 p.m., departing at 1:30. They will return at 3:30 p.m. Have fun!



Meet the Artists Tomorrow

Each year, VA’s Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development (JRRD) selects artwork to feature as a journal cover during the upcoming year, chosen from that year’s competition for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. This year, Edward Tricomi’s pastel painting, “Pond” was selected as the featured cover artist.



The Journal also selected an oil painting by Minnesota veteran James Nelson entitled, “Let He Who Knows Not How to Pray Go to Sea.” Be sure to read tomorrow’s ArtsGram for more information about these two very special artists.

You can meet both Tricomi and Nelson tomorrow (Saturday) during the Meet the Artist session in the hospitality room on the third floor (located in the Rooms 301 and 303), from 9 a.m. - noon. Journal staff will serve as your hosts. Mark your calendars!

F - Y - I



The hospitality room will be open today from 9 a.m. to midnight. Located on the third floor in rooms 301 and

303, the room is staffed by gracious volunteers and offers snacks, soft drinks, juices and coffee for all Festival participants, staff and volunteers. Enjoy!



The medical support team is located on the third floor, room 318 and are available at

all times during the Festival week. Medical support team members will also accompany all tours away from the hotel. If you have a medical concern or health issue, please contact your team leader. We hope your stay here in Denver is the very best.



Meet with Your Team Leader

Meet with your team leader this morning at 8:30 a.m. Check with your team leader for the location of your meetings. Tomorrow, October 22, team meetings will begin at 9 a.m. On

Sunday, October 23, they will begin at 11:00 a.m.

Happy Anniversary!

To James Taylor:

I just want to thank you for another great year. Twenty-four years and still going strong.

Love, Katherine



Friday, October 21, 2005

Breakfast - Traditional Continental

Croissant Breakfast Sandwich
Breakfast Potatoes
Juices, Fruit and Berries
Muffins, Pastries, Croissants, Danish
Butter, Margarine, Preserves, Cream Cheese
Oatmeal, Dry Cereal, Yogurt
Milk, Soy Milk, Coffee, Hot Tea
Cream, Sugar, Sugar Substitute

Lunch - Italiano

Tuscan Caesar Salad, Meat Lasagna, Vegetarian Lasagna
Garlic Bread, Relish Tray
Tiramisu, Lemon Bars, Seasonal Berries
Milk, Soy Milk, Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea
Cream, Sugar, Sugar Substitute

Dinner - Farmer's Harvest Buffet

Sonoma Garden Salad
Herb Roasted Chicken Breast with Vegetables
Beef Stew
Assorted Breads with Butter or Margarine
Crème Brulee Cheesecake with Strawberries
French Pastries
Milk, Soy Milk, Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea
Cream, Sugar, Sugar Substitute

NVCAF WEB SITE

www.creativeartsfestival.org

Would you like your friends and family back home to be able to see what you are doing this week? Log onto the Festival Web site to check out the daily editions of the *ArtsGram* (on the main home page) as well as individual news releases and photos, located on the "Participant Information" tab.



Chance of Rain
High 57°
Low 38°



Schedule for Friday, October 21, 2005

7 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast at hotel
– Ballrooms C, D

8 a.m. Team leaders meet with
Katy Ryan, National Art Chair
– Stapleton Room, Atrium Level

8:30 a.m. Team leaders meet
with artists

9 – Noon Art Workshop #4 – Collage,
– Stapleton Room, Atrium Level

9 a.m. – Midnight Hospitality Room Open
– Rooms 301 and 303, 3rd Floor

Noon Lunch at hotel
– Ballrooms C, D

1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Completion of artwork projects
– Stapleton Room, Atrium Level

1:30 p.m. Depart for Cherry Creek
Shopping & Gallery District

3:30 p.m. Board buses to return to hotel

5:30 – 6:45 p.m. Dinner at hotel
– Ballroom C, D

7 – 8 p.m. Slide Presentation of the Military
Combat Experience entries from
the 2005 national art competition.
– Gatwick Room, Atrium Level

7 – 9 p.m. Completion of artwork projects
– Stapleton Room

7 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast at hotel
– Ballroom C, D

8:30 a.m. Team leaders meet
with Amy Kimbler
Performing Arts Assoc.
– O'Hare Room

9 a.m. Team leaders meet with
performers

9 a.m. – 11 p.m. Hospitality Room Open
Rooms 301 and 303, 3rd Floor

9 a.m. – Noon "Meet the Artist"
Hospitality Room
Rooms 301 and 303, 3rd Floor

9 – 10 a.m. Ensemble brush-up rehearsal
– Ballrooms A, B

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. CEU Session
"Assisting Others in Writing
Memoirs" – National Room (staff)

10 – 11:15 a.m. Coaching: Individual Acts with
directors/asst. directors

11:15 a.m. Lunch at hotel
– 12:15 p.m. – Ballrooms C, D

Noon Sponsors Luncheon
– Stapleton Room
Atrium Level (staff)

12:30 p.m. Performers depart for
Gates Concert Hall

12:45 – 1:25 p.m. Performers into costume
and makeup

1:30 – 5 p.m. Final dress rehearsal with
orchestra - Gates Concert Hall

5:30 p.m. Performers depart for hotel

7 – 9 p.m. Gala Dinner (casual dress)
– Ballrooms A, B, C, D

9:00 – 10:30 p.m. Special Entertainment
– Ballrooms A, B, C, D

